Maverick Vinales (Spanish rider Maverick Vinales celebrated after winning the Barwa Grand Prix at Losail International Circuit yesterday. (AP))

**MOTOGP / BARWA GRAND PRIX OF QATAR**

Losail to win first round

Yamaha rider beats Ducati duo Zarco and Bagnaia for the victory, reigning champ and Suzuki rider Mir settles for fourth

**FORMULA 1**

Hamilton holds off Verstappen to win thrilling season-opener

**SPORT**

India clinic thriller, series as Curran heroes go in vain

**FOOTBALL**

Ronaldo fumes as Portugal are denied winner

**CRICKET**

Sha’aban 16, 1442 AH

Monday, March 29, 2021

Shahban 16, 1442 AH

GULF TIMES SPORT
Faultless Lowes claims classy Moto2 win

I t was a dream start to victory for Tech3’s Italian rider Fabio Di Giannantonio as he powered to the chequered flag for the first time after a whole host of riders went down at Turn 7. Di Giannantonio then made light work of Bendesneyder (Pertamina Mandalika SAG Team) to claim his first Moto2 victory at Turn 1 to recover to P3. Lowes – who received a track wide penalty points for that accident and was handbraking at Turn One in the race. His lead crept up to two seconds but Esteban was moving two penalty points to go with the three he received earlier in the season.

Lowes (Petronas Sprinta Racing) leading the three he received earlier in the season. The polesitter Dixon (Petronas Sprinta Racing) then made light work of Bendesneyder (Pertamina Mandalika SAG Team) to claim his first Moto2 victory at Turn 1 to recover to P3. Lowes – who received a track wide penalty points for that accident and was handbraking at Turn One in the race.

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India clinch thriller, series as Curran heroes go in vain

Half centuries by Pant, Dhawan and Pandya fire India to 329. England fall short by seven
A

Adhiban Abdulsathid and Hsu, Co. W.L., (AAI), the exclusive distributors of Toyota and Lexus in Qatar, have signed an agreement with Qatar Chess Association (QCA) to continue the AAB Chess Open Under-16 in its 11th edition. The signing ceremony took place at the QCA headquarters, when QCA president Mohammad al-Okab said, “We are pleased to announce the opening of the games monitored online for the benefit of the fans of the Game building. The tournament will be the first of its kind in the country as well as the first to be headed by the chief arbiter with Frenchman Bibard of France as an additional arbiter. With an strong partnership with QCA, AAI is dedicated in promoting chess among the community especially the youth. We have opened the first FIDE rated tournament in Qatar in 2018 and continues to pursue creative means to bring the sports to different platforms. Qatar Stream- ing has joined as a live stream partner which will be the first streaming in Qatar for chess.”

By Sports Reporter

USA’s Meinhardt, Russia’s Deriglazova claim GP Doha titles

G

ravel world No. 1 Inna Deriglazova of Russia said, “This is the first competition in over a year and to emerge champion is quite remarkable.”

The 31-year-old three-time Olympic gold medallist at the 2012 European Fencing Championships in Tbilisi, the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, and the 2018 European Championships in Sofia, said, “It has opened the first FIDE rated tournament in Qatar in 2018 and continues to pursue creative means to bring the sports to different platforms. Qatar Streaming has joined as a live stream partner which will be the first streaming in Qatar for chess.”

Gerek Meinhardt and Inna Deriglazova in action during the final yesterday.

On a day of many surprises, the top-ranked fencer Meinhardt was stopped in his tracks by Brazil’s Ediri, the 106th-ranked Frenchman who went all the way to the world No.8, while Shikine defeated his compatriot Race Imboden, the 21-year-old right-handed fencer from the USA, the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, the 2018 European Championships in Sofia, and the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro,

While the top-ranked fencer in the men’s event had a disappointing outing in Tokyo, things were however different in the women’s as Deriglazova ousted the world No.4 and the silver medallist at the 2012 European Fencing Championships in Sofia, Victoria Anizore of Belarus, who beat with no doubt Deriglazova of Russia at the year-end event to clinch the semi-finals.

Defending champion Deriglazova was denied in the first set-point chance in the semi-finals before claiming an 11-10 victory against her compatriot Adilina Zagidullina in the quarter-finals.

The clash was the first be- tween Foconi and the 21-year-old right-handed fencer from the USA, the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, the 2018 European Championships in Sofia, and the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro,

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Scottie Pippen had a trailblazing career in the NBA, becoming one of the most influential players of his generation. His impact on the court extended beyond his playing days, as he paved the way for future generations of basketball players. Pippen's success on the court and his commitment to social justice efforts made him a role model for many.
**Frenchman Perez joins US trio in WGC Match Play semis**

**FEEL GREAT. I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW MUCH FUN I’VE BEEN HAVING.**

In the right direction

Rahm, the only top seed to advance to the Round of 16 in Round Three, lofted his match-play debut in a WGC for the first time and will face off against the seven-time major champion of 2021, at the 2021 St. Andrews, could escape his toughest career title at the 2021 Championship. Perez dropped the first hole but claimed back the hole and lost the hole and putted to win the 18th and 10-foot putt in Round Three of the KIA Classic at the Aviara Golf Club in Carlsbad, California.

**LOCATION**

**Cheiron de Rivière**

**Tours**

**France**

**Frenchman Perez lands the first hole in his match against Billy Horschel at the United States (Auston Country Club). In Austin, Texas.**

- **Pairings:**
  - Victor Perez (FRA x31) v Billy Horschel (USA x52)
  - Dylan Frittelli (RSA x64) v Billy Horschel (USA x52)
  - Kevin Streelman (USA x53) v Billy Horschel (USA x52)
  - Matt Kuchar (USA x52) v Billy Horschel (USA x52)
  - Bert MacIntyre (SCO x41) v Billy Horschel (USA x52)

**RESULTS**

- Perez won the Round 1 Morton (5-0)
- Horschel won the Round 2 Morton (5-0)
- Perez won the Round 3 Morton (5-0)
- Horschel won the Round 4 Morton (5-0)

**Sunday morning semi-final**

- Perez dropped the first hole but claimed back the hole and lost the hole and putted to win the 18th and 10-foot putt in Round Three of the KIA Classic at the Aviara Golf Club in Carlsbad, California.

- Perez birdied the par-5 sixth hole to win the match.
- Horschel never led until the playoff hole, the par-5 12th, where putts were going in. Perez birdied to win the par-5 sixth hole.
- Horschel birdied the par-5 fifth and par-4 seventh holes coming in. From there I kind of got the feeling of it, " Park said. "I played it great and I putted it great so I'm going to keep on going.

- The last four holes played really well. It was a real nice spell in the middle, they go to right in the middle when putts are going in. Cer-}
**FOCUS**

Ronaldo fumes as Portugal are denied winner

Portugal’s Cristiano Ronaldo described his captain’s missed moment before he threw in the towel and left the field at the end of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 qualification Group A football match between Serbia and Portugal at the Rajko Mitic Stadium in Belgrade on Saturday.

The Serbians, who ended their campaign with a 3-1 win over Ireland in Dublin on Sunday, have already advanced to the finals of the UEFA Nations League after a 1-0 victory against Belgium in Brussels on Wednesday.

Portugal, who finished second in their Group B, missed out on a playoff for a spot in the finals after a 2-2 draw with Serbia.

Ronaldo, who was substituted off in the 67th minute, expressed his frustration at not being able to score.

He said: “I was substitutions and I was not able to score in the game. I was substitutions and I was not able to score. I think I had many chances to score and I couldn’t score.”

**REACT**

Irish captain Coleman seeks the calm after the Luxembourg storm

Republic of Ireland defender Seamus Coleman (left) celebrates with Stuart Kettlewell after his side won 2-0 against Luxembourg in their UEFA Euro 2020 qualifier in Luxembourg City on Wednesday.

The Republic piled on the pressure from the start and were rewarded for their efforts when John O’Loughlin scored after 23 minutes.

They went 2-0 up just before half-time as Kettlewell’s header确保ed his side of the game.

The result leaves Ireland top of Group D with 12 points from six matches, two points ahead of Luxembourg.

**BOTTOMLINE**

Southgate urges players to consider quitting social media

England boss Gareth Southgate has urged his players to consider quitting social media after the World Cup qualifier with Belgium.

Southgate said: “It’s been a very difficult week for all of us, but I think it’s important that we look after each other.

“I hope we can all come back together and put this behind us.”

**FOCUS**

Lukaku on target as Belgium draw with Czech Republic

The Belgian striker scored twice in their 2-2 draw with Czech Republic in their UEFA Euro 2020 qualifier at the Jan Blažej Vrba Stadium in Prague on Saturday.

Belgium, who are currently second in Group C, failed to make it third place as they were held to a draw by a resilient Czech Republic side.

“We had to show a different side of our play, I don’t think we’ve been our normal selves in terms of what we do on the field,” Belgium midfielder Dries Mertens said.

The visitors were left frustrated as they could not find a way past the Czech defence and were restricted to a 2-2 draw in Prague.

Belgium started the qualifier strongly and took the lead through Romelu Lukaku’s goal in the 8th minute.

Czech midfielder Viktor Pekarik equalised six minutes later from the penalty spot, and Lukaku scored again to give Belgium a 2-1 lead in the 61st minute.

However, the Czechs were able to equalise once more through their captain Milan Barisic in the 87th minute.

“Lukaku is a great player but we also have to consider the importance of defense,” said Mertens.

Belgium coach Roberto Martinez said: “I don’t think we were our normal selves and then obviously we had to find a way to get a point.”

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Belgium are now on 15 points from six matches, while the Czechs are on 13 points from six.

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FOOTBALL

Kane ends goal drought as England sink Albania 2-0

England goalkeeper Nick Pope had just five touches in the entire match.

HARRY KANE ended his 10-game goal drought as England started with a 2-0 win in Albania in Group I World Cup qualification.

Kane also set up Mason Mount's second goal as England made it two successive Group victories in the road to the 2022 World Cup in Qatar.

England had no goal for almost an hour until Kane broke the deadlock in the 38th minute.

The 27-year-old nearly scored again when he met Sterlings' nimble footwork cross from 10 yards. Kane headed into the far corner. But this time he failed to convert a cross.

Sterling's nimble footwork set up Phil Foden for a low finish onto the woodwork early in the second half.

Kane couldn't hit the target after another thrilling run, and almost clinched Albaniain the 55th minute.

Their rivalry continued as Albania's relentless attack to pull back and play a cross to Chelsea midfielder Blind, who guided a crisp shot into the far corner from 12 yards for his fourth England goal.

England maintained their top position in Group I at the Austria Arena (Albania Stadium) in Tirana yesterday.

The 2021-22 World Cup qualifying Group I match at the Arena Kombetare (Air Albania Stadium) in Tirana yesterday.

.Spain's last-gasp Olmo strike gives World Cup qualifying win in Georgia

And the late goal from Illi Kajve-

siw's Olmo was vital to Luis Enri-

que's side, who were held 1-1 at home to Greece in their first qualifying match on Thursday.

The result saw Spain over-

come their two-match overhaul of Russia to claim their first World Cup qualification going back 28 years to a 2-2 draw in Tbilisi in March 2003.

They continued their Group B campaign at home to Kosovo in time for Euro 2020. Enrique was expected to make a key change from the full-back position currently on foot at Portuguese club, the defender from Manchester City, mak-

ing a double return to the side. Kane well-organised underdogs until deep in the first half at the Air

@ Reuters

The 27-year-old has finally scored in his fourth England appearance since 2018, picked

up Kane with a fine cross.

Shaw on the left and the in-

creasing pressure from the Albanian defence.

On the left and the An-

swer, just five yards from goal, but this time he failed to

Kane this week admitted it

was "a hard question to an-

swer when asked if it might

be possible to have a goal

in the first or second half of

the match.

This was the England captain's first international goal since

scored against Kosovo 100 days ago on November 18.

Back in the starting line-up

after being rested for Thurs-

day's 5-0 win over San Mar-

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TOP FOCUS

England's forward Harry Kane (9th left) customer for the first time since

the triumphant 2018 World Cup campa-

ign in Russia.

The best opportunity for the

hosts broke at pace from an

England corner.

Pope had an early fright when

a cross from the Danish side

that left him open.

Kane took the opportunity to

leave Tottenham at the end of

the season.

He had only 86 minutes

to try to score at the delayed 2020

year ago, but not on the

evidence of this week's display by

the three FIFA ranking

changes from the Danish side

that left him open.

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swer when asked if it might

be possible to have a goal

in the first or second half of

the match.

This was the England captain's first international goal since

scored against Kosovo 100 days ago on November 18.

Back in the starting line-up

after being rested for Thurs-

day's 5-0 win over San Mar-

ino, Kane also set up Mason Mount's second goal as England made it two successive Group victories in the road to the 2022 World Cup in Qatar.

England had no goal for almost an hour until Kane broke the deadlock in the 38th minute.

The 27-year-old nearly scored again when he met Sterling's nimble footwork cross from 10 yards. Kane headed into the far corner.

Sterling's nimble footwork set up Phil Foden for a low finish onto the woodwork early in the second half.

Kane couldn't hit the target after another thrilling run, and almost clinched Albania in the 55th minute.

Their rivalry continued as Albania's relentless attack to pull back and play a cross to Chelsea midfielder Blind, who guided a crisp shot into the far corner from 12 yards for his fourth England goal.

England maintained their top position in Group I at the Austria Arena (Albania Stadium) in Tirana yesterday.

England's forward Harry Kane (9th left) customer for the first time since

the triumphant 2018 World Cup campa-

ign in Russia.